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Parks and Recreation Minutes 03/04/2002

Spy Pond Park: Master Plan Update Meeting No.2 Meeting Notes

The following points were raised at the meeting regarding the Master Plan Update for Spy Pond Park:

1. \$300,000 will be made available for the Phase I Construction Project at SPP rather than the originally anticipated \$500,000.
2. The priority for spending this money should be focused in the areas between Pond Lane and Linwood Street turnaround, rather than in areas along the water's edge at the ballfield or near the Boy's and Girl's Club. However, the Master Plan should indicate some activities in these lower priority areas.
3. The DEM water quality grant should cover some of the costs in addressing drainage problems at the Pond Lane section of the park to the existing drain outlet in this area (see #8).
4. The Master Plan should provide additional points of access to the water; however, direct physical access to the water sheet shall be limited to the access points at the emergency/recreational ramp at Pond Lane and at the beach near the Linwood Street turnaround. Other points of access should be via "overlooks" (i.e. docks with railings) which were described as constructed points of access that are built over the bank and provide access over/to the water, but not into the water. These overlooks would be provided to accommodate activities such as fishing. The areas of access should be located as shown on the attached plan.
5. All planted bank areas shall have a permanent barrier of black plastic-coated chain link fencing approximately 3 feet in height at the top and bottom of the bank to protect the plantings, particularly through their establishment period, and to encourage park users to use the appropriate access/overlook points provided in the master plan over the long term.
6. CRJA will research the locations of the ice houses that once stood along the banks to understand and better interpret the history of the ice business along Spy Pond's shore, and to incorporate, as appropriate, the footprints of the buildings within the SPP Master Plan.
7. The dilapidated granite and wood timber walls should be replaced with granite retaining walls, if affordable and appropriate in interpreting the history of the site. The changing shoreline character should be maintained; therefore, the walled shore edge should be maintained, rather than grading out the bank and planting it as is proposed along the mid section of the park.
8. The alignment of the emergency/recreational ramp for access to the water at Pond Lane was accepted; however, it may require the realignment of the piped connection. This work may fall under the auspices of the DEM grant funding.
9. Pond views should be maintained from the Minute Man Bikeway through a "clean out" of overgrown understory material and the removal of invasive plant species. A similar "clean out" should be undertaken at the stonewall overlooks near Pond Lane.
10. The layout of a meandering pathway was preferred through the park to provide portions of the walk nearer to the water and other portions at the rear away from the water's edge.
11. There is no particular reasoning behind the current placement of park benches, and therefore, the benches should be located to reinforce the park's design and intended use. The Friends did express a desire to have a consistent type of park furnishing throughout the park for all furnishings: benches, trash receptacles, and picnic tables.
12. The group expressed a desire to show a relocated turnaround at Linwood Street (pulled back from water's edge) with NO parking in the master plan. This turnaround relocation, however, was not deemed a priority for the Phase I Construction work. The group would also like the turnaround referred to as a drop-off to distinguish its intended use from the parking that currently takes place there. Finally, the group would like to determine what portion of the master plan work can be accomplished by the Town of Arlington's DPW in order to potentially save construction costs.

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